

1. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism comprising:
 - a disc-shaped object storage means for storing a plurality of disc-shaped objects;
 - a movable picker assembly which comprises:
 - a picker arm support means;
 - a picker arm extending from said picker arm support means and having a curvilinear track for receiving an edge of a disc-shaped object and supporting said disc-shaped object along said edge; and
 - a picker wheel selectively movable into engagement with an edge of said disc-shaped object for rotating and driving said disc-shaped object along said track into and out of said disc-shaped object storage means, and
 - a means for moving said movable picker assembly.
2. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 1 which further comprises:
 - a means for actuating said picker wheel; and
 - a spindle means for receiving a disc-shaped object from said movable picker assembly and for rotating said disc-shaped object.
3. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said movable picker assembly is vertically displaceable.
4. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said disc-shaped object storage means comprises a magazine with a plurality of disc-shaped object-supporting V-shaped groove edges for storing disc-shaped objects aligned with one another and spaced apart along a common axis.
5. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 2, wherein said actuation means is a motorized capstan.
6. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 2, wherein said actuation means is a motor with a worm-gear drive.
7. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said disc-shaped object is selected from the group consisting of a video disc, an audio compact disc, a photo compact disc, a silicon wafer, a lens, a mirror, and an optical filter.
8. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said curvilinear track has a radius of curvature corresponding to a diameter of a disc-shaped object.
9. A disc object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said means for moving said movable picker assembly comprises:
 - a worm drive shaft having one end seated in a base via a bearing and an opposite end in contact with a worm drive motor; and
 - threaded flange means attached to the movable picker assembly and in contact with the worm drive shaft.
10. A disc object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 9, wherein rotation of the worm drive shaft causes the movable picker assembly to move along the elevator guide rod.
11. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism comprising:
 - a disc-shaped object storage means for storing a plurality of disc-shaped objects;
 - a movable picker assembly which comprises:
 - a picker arm support means comprising a plurality of guide rollers oriented about an elevator guide

- rod which act to laterally constrain the movable picker assembly as it moves along the elevator guide rod;
 - a picker arm extending from said picker arm support means and having a curvilinear track for receiving an edge of a disc-shaped object and supporting said disc-shaped object along said edge; and
 - a picker wheel selectively movable into engagement with an edge of said disc-shaped object for rotating and driving said disc-shaped object along said track into and out of said disc-shaped object storage means, and
 - a means for moving said movable picker assembly.
12. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 11, wherein said means for moving said movable picker assembly comprises:
 - a cable threaded over a series of at least two elevator pulleys and having one end anchored to an outside edge of the movable picker assembly and an opposite end anchored to a center of gravity of the movable picker assembly.
 13. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 12 which further comprises a means for moving said cable.
 14. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 13, wherein said means for moving said cable is a motorized capstan.
 15. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 11 which further comprises:
 - a means for actuating said picker wheel; and
 - a spindle means.
 16. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 11, wherein said movable picker assembly is vertically displaceable.
 17. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 11, wherein said disc-shaped object storage means comprises a magazine with a plurality of disc-shaped object-supporting V-shaped groove edges for storing disc-shaped objects aligned with one another and spaced apart along a common axis.
 18. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 15, wherein said actuation means is a motorized capstan.
 19. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 15, wherein said actuation means is a motor with a worm-gear drive.
 20. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 11, wherein said disc-shaped object is selected from the group consisting of a video disc, an audio compact disc, a photo compact disc, a silicon wafer, a lens, a mirror, and an optical filter.
 21. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 11, wherein said curvilinear track has a radius of curvature corresponding to a diameter of a disc-shaped object.
 22. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 21, wherein said means for moving said movable picker assembly comprises:
 - a worm drive shaft having one end seated in a base via a bearing and an opposite end in contact with a worm drive motor; and
 - threaded flange means attached to the movable picker assembly and in contact with the worm drive shaft.
 23. A disc-shaped object storage and retrieval mechanism according to claim 22, wherein rotation of the